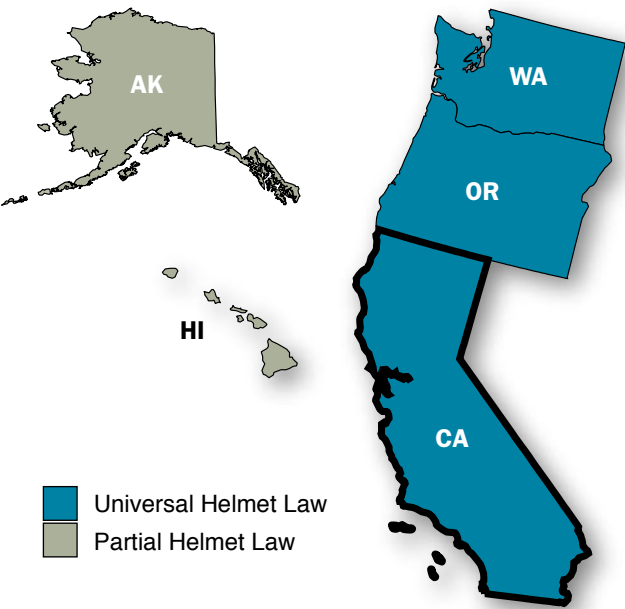


CALIFORNIA SAVE LIVES, SAVE MONEY

HOW DOES YOUR STATE MEASURE UP?



After the universal helmet law took effect on January 1, 1992, the number of motorcyclist fatalities in California decreased 37%.¹ Currently, California ranks among the top in the nation: #11 for lives saved and #7 for money saved due to helmet use.

REGIONAL COMPARISON OF HELMET LAW IMPACT

State	Type of Law/ Year Enacted	Lives saved by helmet use per 100,000 registered motorcycles, 2008 ^{2,3}	Dollars saved by helmet use per 100,000 registered motorcycles, 2008 ^{2,3}
Alaska	■ /1976	8	\$18M
California	■ /1992	39	\$76M
Hawaii	■ /1977	8	\$14M
Oregon	■ /1988	27	\$47M
Washington	■ /1990	19	\$39M

A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

	Lives saved by helmet use per 100,000 registered motorcycles, 2008 ^{1,2}		Dollars saved by helmet use per 100,000 registered motorcycles, 2008 ^{1,2}
Average number of lives saved for states with a Universal Law	40	Average money saved for states with a Universal Law	\$66 million
Average number of lives saved for states with a Partial Law	14	Average money saved for states with a Partial Law	\$23 million
Average number of lives saved for states with no law	6	Average money saved for states with no law	\$10 million

WHAT CAN CALIFORNIA DO?

✓ **Protect your universal helmet law.** Keep in mind that public support is high for helmet laws, averaging 84% in states like yours with a universal law.

1. Kraus JF, Peek C, McArthur DL, Williams AF. The effect of the 1992 California motorcycle helmet usage law on motorcycle crash fatalities and injuries. JAMA. 1994;272:1506-1511.
2. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Determining lives and costs saved and injuries prevented by motorcycle helmets. Washington (DC): National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation; 2011.
3. Federal Highway Administration. Highway statistics 2008: State motor-vehicle registrations (Table MV-1). Washington (DC): Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation; 2009.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

QUICK FACTS

- The single most effective way for states to save lives and save money is a universal helmet law.
- Helmets reduce the risk of death by 37%.
- Helmets reduce the risk of head injury by 69%.
- The United States saved nearly \$3 billion due to helmet use in 2008.
- The United States could have saved an additional \$1.3 billion in 2008 if all motorcyclists had worn helmets.
- Helmets do not reduce visibility or impair hearing.

FAQs

Do helmet laws interfere with a person's freedom to choose whether to wear a helmet?

Yes. Many laws restrict people's freedom to perform behaviors judged contrary to the public good. These include drunk driving laws, cellphone use laws, and infectious disease quarantine laws, to name a few. Courts usually uphold such laws as important to the nation's well-being.

Don't helmets make it harder for riders to see or hear?

No. Helmets that meet the DOT standard do not reduce visibility or impair hearing. By protecting people's heads in crashes, helmets only make riding safer.

If a motorcyclist chooses not to wear a helmet, does it only affect him?

No, not if the rider crashes. Unhelmeted riders injured in a crash have substantially higher healthcare costs than helmeted riders. When the rider is insured, these costs are passed on to others in the form of higher health insurance premiums. Unhelmeted riders are more likely to be uninsured than other riders. When the rider is uninsured, their medical expenses may be paid for using taxpayers' funds.

Can motorcycle safety education substitute for helmet laws?

No. The benefits of motorcycle safety education are unclear. A universal helmet law is the most effective way to reduce the number of people who are seriously injured or killed from motorcycle crashes.

Are universal helmet laws really that much better than partial helmet laws?

Yes. There is strong, substantial, and clear evidence that universal helmet laws save lives and save money. This is not true for partial laws. When a universal helmet law is enacted, helmet use dramatically increases, and states see an across-the-board decrease in deaths. If states repeal the law, they see an increase in deaths.

Do people want the government to regulate helmet use for adult motorcyclists?

Yes. National surveys in 2000, 2004, 2009, and 2010 have consistently shown that more than 80% of Americans favor universal helmet laws.

PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE ON THE ROAD — EVERY DAY.